

PHP & XML

https://www.tutorialspoint.com/php/php_and_xml.htm

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XML is a markup language that looks a lot like HTML. An XML document is plain text and contains tags delimited by < and >. There are two big differences between XML and HTML –

- XML doesn't define a specific set of tags you must use.
- XML is extremely picky about document structure.

XML gives you a lot more freedom than HTML. HTML has a certain set of tags: the <a> tags surround a link, the <p> starts paragraph and so on. An XML document, however, can use any tags you want. Put <rating></rating> tags around a movie rating, <height></height> tags around someone's height. Thus XML gives you option to device your own tags.

XML is very strict when it comes to document structure. HTML lets you play fast and loose with some opening and closing tags. But this is not the case with XML.

HTML list that's not valid XML

```
<ul>
  <li>Braised Sea Cucumber
  <li>Baked GIBLETS with Salt
  <li>Abalone with Marrow and Duck Feet
</ul>
```

This is not a valid XML document because there are no closing tags to match up with the three opening tags. Every opened tag in an XML document must be closed.

HTML list that is valid XML

```
<ul>
  <li>Braised Sea Cucumber</li>
  <li>Baked GIBLETS with Salt</li>
  <li>Abalone with Marrow and Duck Feet</li>
</ul>
```

Parsing an XML Document

PHP 5's new **SimpleXML** module makes parsing an XML document, well, simple. It turns an XML document into an object that provides structured access to the XML.

To create a SimpleXML object from an XML document stored in a string, pass the string to **simplexml_load_string**. It returns a SimpleXML object.

Example

Try out following example –

```
<html>
  <body>

    <?php
      $note=<<<XML
```

```

<note>
  <to>Gopal K Verma</to>
  <from>Sairamkrishna</from>
  <heading>Project submission</heading>
  <body>Please see clearly </body>
</note>

XML;
$xml=simplexml_load_string($note);
print_r($xml);
?>

</body>
</html>

```

It will produce the following result –

```
SimpleXMLElement Object ( [to] => Gopal K Verma [from] => Sairamkrishna [heading]
=> Project submission [body] => Please see clearly )
```

NOTE – You can use function **simplexml_load_file***filename* if you have XML content in a file.

For a complete detail of XML parsing function check [PHP Function Reference](#).

Generating an XML Document

SimpleXML is good for parsing existing XML documents, but you can't use it to create a new one from scratch.

The easiest way to generate an XML document is to build a PHP array whose structure mirrors that of the XML document and then to iterate through the array, printing each element with appropriate formatting.

Example

Try out following example –

```

<?php
  $channel = array('title' => "What's For Dinner",
    'link' => 'http://menu.example.com/',
    'description' => 'Choose what to eat tonight.');
```

```

  print "<channel>\n";

  foreach ($channel as $element => $content) {
    print " <$element>";
    print htmlentities($content);
    print "</$element>\n";
  }

  print "</channel>";
?>

```

It will produce the following result –

```

<channel>
  <title>What's For Dinner</title>
  <link>http://menu.example.com/</link>

```

```
<description>Choose what to eat tonight.</description>  
</channel>
```